

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A process for ~~the~~ treatment of wet-white leathers or skins with anionic reagents in an aqueous liquor, wherein the leathers or skins are pretanned with dialdehydes and retanned with organic tanning agents,

said process comprising

a) adding an anionic reagent together with (i) or (ii) to the aqueous liquor, and allowing the combination to act on the leather, wherein (i) is at least one organic polyamine having at least three amino groups in the molecule, and (ii) is mixtures or reaction products (1) of such polyamines with (2) at least one alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group so that said reaction products have at least two free amino groups in the molecule, wherein said functional group forms covalently bonded bridging groups with an amino group of the polyamine, or

b) first treating the leather with an anionic reagent and then, in the same or a fresh liquor, allowing (i) or (ii) to act on the treated material, wherein (i) and (ii) are as defined above, or

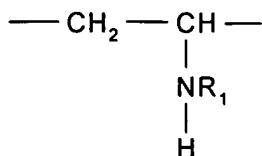
c) first treating the leather with (i) or (ii), and then allowing an anionic reagent to act on the treated material in the same or a fresh liquor, wherein (i) is an organic polyamine having at least three amino groups in the molecule, and (ii) is as defined above,

after said treatment, aftertreatment is effected by adding an acid, and then discharging the liquor, wherein the resulting leather may then be used for further finishing for completion.

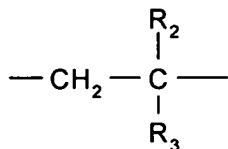
2. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the anionic reagent is selected from the group consisting of fatliquoring agents, water repellents, organic tanning and retanning agents or dyes which have at least one acidic group.

3. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the anionic reagent is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the shaved weight of the leathers or the skins.

4. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the reagent is an anionic dye.
5. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamines are selected from the group consisting of low molecular weight, oligomeric or polymeric compounds which are soluble in polar solvents and in water.
6. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamines are low molecular weight compounds, and wherein the low molecular weight polyamines are saturated or unsaturated, open-chain, mono- or polycyclic compounds which contain 6 to 30 C atoms.
7. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamines are oligomers or polymers in which the amino groups are bonded either directly or via a bridging group to the polymer backbone or in the polymer backbone.
8. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 7, wherein the oligomers comprise from 3 to 100 identical or different monomer units, and the polymers comprise more than 100 and up to about 28,000 identical or different monomer units.
9. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 7, wherein the oligomers and polymers comprise at least one repeating structural element of the formula II and optionally at least one repeating structural element of the formula III:



(II),



(III),

wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

R<sub>2</sub> is H or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>17</sub>alkyl, phenyl, methylphenyl, pyrrolidinyl, Cl, -O-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -O-(CO)-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, -C(O)-OR<sub>4</sub> or -C(O)-NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>,

R<sub>4</sub> is H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl and

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub>, independently of one another, are H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl.

10. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 7, wherein the oligomers and polymers are adducts of organic diamines and aziridine or a polyethylenamine.

11. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 10, wherein the adducts contain repeating structural elements of the formula IV and optionally repeating structural elements of the formula V:



terminal groups R<sub>8</sub> being bonded to the ends of the chains, wherein

R<sub>7</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkylene, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkylene or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>arylene,

R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkoxy or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkylamino and

the R<sub>16</sub>'s, independently of one another, are H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl.

12. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 11, wherein the adducts are oligomers having 3 to 15 structural elements of the formula IV and optionally repeating structural elements of the formula V.

13. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 11, wherein the content of repeating structural elements of the formula IV is from 50 to 100 mol%, and the content of repeating structural elements of the formula V is from 50 to 0 mol%.

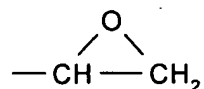
14. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein an alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group is additionally concomitantly used, either as a mixture with the polyamine or as a reaction product with the polyamine, the amino groups of the polyamine and the functional group together forming a covalently bonded bridging group.

15. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 14, wherein the functional silane corresponds to the formula VI:



wherein

$R_{13}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl,  $R_{14}$  is  $-(CH_2)_3-O-CH_2-$  and  $X_1$  is an epoxide group of the formula



or  $R_{14}$  is  $C_2$ - $C_6$ alkylene and  $X_1$  is  $-NCO$  or  $-C(O)OR_{15}$ , in which  $R_{15}$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$ alkyl.

16. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 15, wherein the amount of functional alkylsilane in the composition with the polyamine is from 1 to 60% by weight, based on the total amount of polyamine and functional alkylsilane.

17. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamine or the mixture or reaction product of polyamine and alkylsilane is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the shaved weight of the fibrous material.

18. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 1, which is carried out at from room temperature to 60°C.

19-34. **(Cancelled)**

35. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 8, wherein the oligomers comprise from 3 to 50 identical or different monomer units.

36. **(Previously presented)** The process according to Claim 8, wherein the oligomers comprise from 3 to 30 identical or different monomer units.